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IXRE

20th April, 1961.

Prof. Joshua Lederberg,
Professor of Genetics,
Stanford University Medical Center,
Palo Alto,
California,
U. S. A.

Dear Josh,

I thank you for your letter of 21st March. Hirota has written up a good deal of his work and is sending it to the Japanese Journal of Genetics. He has put my name on it as a co-author, though I have not contributed very much to it. No doubt you will hear about this in due course. He sent a copy to me, and it seems reasonably well written except for the Japanese-English idioms!

I will send out copies of the periodate paper to people in the U.K. who are interested in bacterial genetics. I hope there has not been too much confusion over payment for these reprints, as the Library tell me they received an invoice for a larger sum than 150. If there is any trouble, could you let me know and I will straighten it out here? I am still trying to find out if we can get a better date on the grasshoppers. The soil samples were from the roots of plants in the older herbaria at Kew and the British Museum, and hence can be dated accurately. The main trouble is to exclude that the results are due to contamination at a later date, but since we can only grow spore-forming bacteria from the older samples, since these are rather a restricted spectrum of the soil spore-forming bacteria, and the culture of the paper leaves and flowers, etc. usually shows them to be sterile, I think we can take it that the results are reliable. If you plot a viable count against age you get a fairly clear falling line. I hope to write this up for "Nature" in a month or two, and will let you have a copy of the typescript before doing so.

With best wishes to you all at Stanford,

John

1. We are paying for this altogether. Don't give it another thought
2. I trust you have seen Keilin's article in the Proc. Roy. Soc., B150:149, 1959.

as per, Joshua